

11 01 1999

a

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS ¹⁵
CLAIMS:

005004-0000

1. A method of providing a mailbox answerphone service to a
5 caller in a mobile communications system during a call directed to a directory
number used commonly by different ones of the system's subscribers to
access their mailboxes, wherein said answerphone service identifies a mailbox
associated with a subscriber by means of an identification code,

characterised in that said method comprises:

10 entering either a first mode of answerphone operation or a second,
different, mode of answerphone operation in dependence on information
received during call establishment indicating whether said call is of
international origin.

15 2. A method according to claim 1, comprising in said first mode
of operation, if said call is not diverted, initially providing a message retrieval
service, and if said call is diverted, initially providing a message deposit
service.

20 3. A method according to claim 2, wherein whether or not said
call is diverted is determined from information received during call
establishment.

4. A method according to claim 1, 2 or 3, comprising in said second mode of operation providing either a message deposit service or a message retrieve service in dependence on the receipt of a selection indicator from said caller during said call.

5. A method according to claim 4, wherein in said second mode said caller, after inputting said identification code during said call, is initially prompted for a voice message to be received and stored, and said message retrieve service is provided if said indicator is received from said user.

6. A method according to claim 4 or 5, wherein said indicator comprises a DTMF tone.

7. A method according to any preceding claim, comprising prompting said caller for said identification code if said identification code is otherwise not associated with said call when received.

8. A method according to any preceding claim, wherein said identification code corresponds to a directory number of said subscriber.

9. A method according to any preceding claim, wherein a call of international origin is identified by means of an international origin indicator in signalling associated with said call.

5 10. A method according to claim 1, wherein said call is associable with a divert flag, a calling line identity (CLI) signal, and an international origin indicator, wherein said divert flag is set if said call is diverted from a mobile station to said apparatus and said mobile station is located within a coverage area of said mobile communications system, said CLI signal is
10 associated with said call if the call originates or is diverted from a mobile station within said coverage area and said mobile station is preset to transmit said CLI signal, and said international origin indicator is associated with said call if said call originates or is diverted from a mobile station and said mobile station is used at a location causing said international origin indicator to be
15 sent to said mobile communications system during call establishment.

11. A method according to claim 10, wherein a message deposit service is initially provided to said caller if said divert flag is set, and in said
20 message deposit service said caller is prompted for a voice message to be received and stored.

12. A method according to claim 10 or 11, wherein a message retrieve service is initially provided to said caller if:

(a) said divert flag is not set and said CLI signal is associated with said call; or

5 (b) said divert flag is not set, said CLI signal is not associated with said call, and identification code is received from said caller during said call, and

in said retrieve service a stored voice message is retrieved and provided to said caller.

10

13. A method of providing a mailbox answerphone service to a caller in a mobile communications system during a call directed to a directory number used commonly by different ones of the system's subscribers to access their mailboxes, wherein said answerphone service identifies a mailbox associated with a subscriber by means of an identification code,

15

characterised in that said method comprises:

automatically entering either a first mode of answerphone operation if said call is of national origin or a second, different, mode of answerphone operation if said call is of international origin.

20

14. A method according to claim 13, wherein the origin of said call is derived from information received during call establishment.

15. A method according to any preceding claim, wherein said common directory number may be used by all of the system's subscribers to access said answerphone service.

5

16. A method of providing a mailbox answerphone service to a caller in a mobile communications system, wherein said answerphone service identifies a mailbox associated with a subscriber by means of an identification code, said method comprising:

10

receiving a call from a mobile handset, said call being directed to a directory number used commonly by different subscribers to access their mailboxes;

allowing said caller to input a selection indicator during said call; and

15

(a) if said indicator is not received, detecting a first identification code associated with said mobile handset from information received during call establishment and providing a message retrieve service to allow the caller to retrieve messages from the mailbox associated with said first identification code; or

20

(b) if said indicator is received, allowing the user to input a second identification code and providing a message retrieve service to allow the caller to retrieve messages from the mailbox associated with said second identification code.

005000 15099900

17. A method according to claim 16, wherein each said identification code corresponds to a directory number of a different one of the system's subscribers.

5

18. A method according to claim 16 or 17, further comprising in (a) and/or (b):

prompting said caller for a security code associated with the mailbox being accessed.

10

19. A method according to claim 16, 17 or 18, wherein said indicator comprises a DTMF tone code.

15

20. A Voice Processing system for a mobile communications system, adapted to perform the method of any of claims 1 to 19.

20

21. Apparatus for use in a mobile communications system, said apparatus being adapted to store messages for subsequent retrieval by a subscriber of the mobile communications system wherein said apparatus is adapted to identify a first subscriber making a call to retrieve a message by means of an identification signal automatically forwarded to said apparatus during call establishment, said signal identifying the equipment being used by

said subscriber, and wherein said apparatus is further adapted to identify a second subscriber, on receipt of a request from said second subscriber during said call, by means of other information supplied by said second subscriber during said call.

5

22. Apparatus for use in a mobile communications system, said mobile communications system being arranged to establish a communications link with said apparatus in response to a call by a user, said apparatus being responsive during said call to receipt of a response selection indicator, and to receipt of a number of identification codes each being associated with a different mobile subscriber, wherein said apparatus is arranged to select one of said mobile subscribers and/or to select one of a plurality of predetermined responses if said response selection indicator is received, and otherwise to automatically provide a particular response relating to one of said mobile subscribers.

15

005000:15099900

